

WAVES OF FIRE

Death and Destruction in Pennsylvania's Oil Region.

Hundreds of Lives Lost by the Awful Calamity.

Millions of Dollars Worth of Property Wiped Out.

BLAZING OIL SWEEPING DOWN A RIVER TORRENT.

The Keystone State Petroleum District Visited by the Most Dreadful Catastrophe in Its History—Tittusville and Oil City in Ruins—Many of the Injured Cannot Survive—The Tempest of Fire and Flood Came Without Warning.

OIL CITY, Pa., June 6.—The most appalling calamity that ever visited this section occurred yesterday. While sight-seers were watching the rise in the river, there suddenly came without warning a pouring tempest of fire and flood and hundreds of dead told the story more eloquently than words. A large proportion of the population about town was distributed along the banks and bridges of the Allegheny river and Oil Creek, watching the rise of the flood in both streams, the chief cause of the rise of the latter being due to a cloudburst above Tittusville, which resulted in the loss of many lives in that city. The spectators were amazed to see an ominous covering of oil make its appearance on the banks of the river. The flood poured down the Oil Creek valley. People began slowly to fall back from the bridge and the creek, but they had hardly begun to do so when an explosion was heard up the stream. This was rapidly followed by two others, and quick as a flash of lightning the creek for two miles was filled with an awful mass of roaring flames and billows of smoke that rolled high above the creek and river hills. Oil City is bounded on all sides by steep hills. Oil Creek comes down the valley from the north, and just before its confluence here with the Allegheny is crossed by a bridge that part of the city embraced in the Third Ward, which lies along the west bank of the creek and the north bank of the river. It was within three minutes of the time of the explosion, and no one knows yet how many of the inhabitants are burned in the ruins of their homes.

AN EXPLOSION. Few of the spectators who were watching the flood when the explosion occurred, escaped, can give a good idea of what happened. All agree there was a terrific explosion and that the air was filled with flames. This was quickly followed by two other explosions. Men thought that hell had broken loose on earth, and their thought was not a violent one. Three gasoline tanks had exploded almost at the same time. The oil on the creek blazed up. The gas in the air burst into a roaring flame. The water, land and air were literally ablaze, and women and children were knocked prostrate, and many of them never arose. Some of those who did found themselves in a lake of flames. The multitudes that were gathered on the higher ground. In the rush many of the weak were trampled upon and badly injured. Some were hurled by horses; others ran and slipped into the water and were drowned. The flames in the air quickly blazed out, but they left huge volumes of black smoke across the sky. The smoke, beneath which roared the fierce flames of the burning oil upon the water.

The many submerged houses and shops along the creek bottom were soon in flames, and the silent fire of blazing gas was succeeded by the crackling flames of burning houses. In many of the houses the people were killed, and the bodies were hurled from the fire. Within sight of thousands, who heard their piteous screams, they burned to death or leaped into the river and there perished by both flood and fire.

Such a combined scene of destruction by two terrible elements was seldom witnessed upon this earth. It is marvelous that from the valley of fire, where the water was hoisted, there came out of this combination of fire and flood any houses were spared. The story told by Harry Huggins, member of a rescuing party which saved dozens of lives, passes in horror many of those related by persons who worked in bringing corpses out of ruins and his words indicate that he believes many of those saved alive would be better with the dead, they are so horribly wounded and burned. He, with Wade Huggins, Wm. Couch and Albert Smith, found the creek in a skiff after the fire had died off its surface, and to the foot bridge, crossing at the head of Seneca street, they found eleven persons clinging.

"Their condition was horrible," said McVeigh. "I wish that I could close my eyes and shut out the sight. Their clothing was burned, their bodies were singed and the eyes even in some of them were burned out. Yet some of them, I believe, will live," and the brave fellow breathed a sigh, as if he regarded their living as a misfortune to themselves.

They clung piteously to us as we took them from the bridge, and their cries and wails were the most pitiful that ever reached my ears. There were seven men and four women, and the appearance of the latter was particularly distressing. We have cared for all of them, and I believe that God pity them," and McVeigh turned away and stared at a brick wall as if it shut out the horrible sight he had witnessed.

A HERO. One of the heroes who gave his life for that of others was Wm. L. Stewart of Silverville, a small village about a mile up Oil Creek. When the disaster occurred, Stewart, who was in Silverville and dragged a boat to the water's edge. He braved the death that moved on the waters and was one of those who helped to drag people out of the houses on the bank of Oil Creek and save them from a watery grave. A great wave of naphtha appeared over the town, and in an instant he was engulfed in a mass of mortar and flame. Below the river stretched out a hundred tongues of fire above came a shower of timbers and plaster. Stewart was killed outright. He died at his post almost in the very act of rescuing lives from the raging elements. His body was fearfully and horribly burned. He leaves a wife and two children.

This morning, however, suffering and death is found on every bank. The Third ward of the city, so far as the river is concerned, is a vast graveyard. The greatest damage is on Seneca street on the

east side of Oil Creek. There under the dying embers is spread a mass of shelled corpses. But one house remains on Seneca street in the lower district. For three-fourths of a mile around it there is not a single house standing. How this unprovoked frame dwelling without even a scratch on it, is an unexplainable mystery.

THE DEAD. The list of the dead, now at the morgue at the City Hall is:

ROBERT KATZING, employee of the Western New York & Pittsburgh Railroad, his clothing caught fire from the explosion. He ran to his house on Emerald street and dropped dead.

H. W. SHAFER, postal telegraph operator, terribly burned.

Unknown man supposed to be BRISOR, an agent from Rochester.

Remains of a man supposed to be WILLIS STEWART of Silverville.

DANIEL HULLIVILLE, aged 40.

JAMES HOLMES, aged 20.

JOHN B. REINHOLD.

In the alley running from Main street, the remains of an unidentified man, horribly burned.

In the same alley, a body, supposed to be WILLIAM BAKER, book agent.

FRANK WALTON, 14.

Mrs. John Roach, aged 28, and one child.

Mrs. John Roach, fatally burned in accident.

W. D. B. TERWILLIGER.

GRANT TERWILLIGER.

COUNCILMAN BARTHOLOMEW LYONS, aged 65, his wife, aged 40, and son, aged 14.

Mrs. E. W. ANDERSON and her two children.

JAMES ROGERS, aged 55.

ANDREW F. ANDERSON, aged 27.

Seventy-five persons are in the hospital at the First Presbyterian Church, many of them fatally burned.

SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Among the most seriously hurt are the following: Henry Brunell, wife and four children were watching the flood near the entrance to the Lake shore tunnel.

They had no time to get in the tunnel when the sheet of water was upon them. The mother and the youngest child, aged 6 years, were burned fatally.

Eugene Fritz had his eyes burned and will not recover.

Children were badly burned, two of them internally.

John Roche, terribly burned, probably fatal.

Sophie Briggs, burned about the face, neck and arms.

Visiting her sister, Mrs. Freeman, both burned seriously about lower limbs.

John T. Hassenpfer, burned severely.

Mrs. John T. Hawkes was severely burned about the head and neck.

Adolph Tesser will die from injuries to her face, hands and body.

Matthew Simon was thrown under the wheel and his neck broken.

George Cox, bad scalp wound.

Just before the fire a little boy was found in a boat on the creek.

He was rescued, but died in a few minutes after being taken to the hospital.

The little boy was being taken out the rescuers saw a dead baby float down the river.

The mother said his name was Johnnie Green.

The following are reported missing:

Thomas McGinnis, a young man, was one of the rescuing party and was thrown in the creek by his boat striking a lamp-post.

Burned a mill hand, supposed to be Frank McGinnis, of the East.

Creighton Oil Refinery Co., owned by Schwartz & Co., close to the north bank of the East.

End, was on fire. The refinery, which seemed to spread so rapidly, and in less than three minutes from the time the explosion was heard the vast plant was a mass of flames.

It was that pandemonium seemed to break loose, and the flames rushed down the streets, tumbling over and knocking each other down in their downward course.

From what they appeared to imagine was the crack of doom. The bright light thrown on the surrounding darkness was a sight to see.

On the roofs and in the windows of the flooded districts appeared men, women and children, dressed mostly in night clothes, and their faces were pale.

Clinging to the drift-wood, timbers and other debris as they were borne down the creek, they were seen in the distance.

Their white and terror-stricken faces and the dark, swirling water, and the smoke, created an impression never to be forgotten.

About one hour from the time the Crescent works took fire another alarm was sounded.

Oil on the creek, spilled by the water over a tank, located in the Third ward, had taken fire, and the expanse of water, a number of acres square, all a solid blaze.

This blaze soon spread to the International Works, owned by J. J. and C. C. and the large refining plant and soap factory of Rice & Robinson, which the flames in a short time reached and consumed.

The wind was in the same direction, and the flames were carried in due time at the Oil Creek refinery and plant, as fine a one as was in this country and never recently consumed.

Never in the history of Tittusville has such a scene of desolation presented itself as was unfolded to the gaze this morning. As your representative entered the main thoroughfare, the first sight was a mass of bodies, carrying the dead body of a man on a stretcher.

Within fifteen minutes the sight became so common that it was no longer a surprise. At the present writing it is estimated that fully 100 persons have been either drowned or burned to death.

Money loss will run from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

When it is stated that over two miles were destroyed, that the factories, refineries, private dwellings, etc., as near as can be ascertained the following is the list of bodies recovered as well as the names of the missing:

THE DEAD.

FRED REID, Dutchman.

Mrs. Mary HAHN and children.

Mrs. GERTIE HAHN and two children.

Mrs. FRED CAMPBELL and two children.

OLIVER EDEK, a boy.

Two children of one FRIEDEL, visitors from Warren.

FRANK WALKER, wife and daughter.

Mrs. JOHN QUINN and two daughters, NELLIE and MAMIE.

Mrs. JOHN QUINN, colored.

Mrs. J. A. JACOBS and child.

Mrs. DELIA RICE.

Mrs. RICE and son.

AN UNKNOWN picture frame peddler.

Mrs. J. BIKERHEIMER and seven children.

One child who was at the time away from home, survives.

LILLIE LANE and wife.

LILLIE and FRANK FOSTER.

Mrs. OSMAN and two children.

Mrs. OSMAN, colored.

Mrs. GOLDA COHEN.

Mrs. NELL MCKENZIE.

Mrs. MARY MADDEN, the latter's sister.

Wm. ECKERT, child.

Mrs. C. C. CASHMAN.

GEORGE FRANK.

Mrs. LARA OSMAN and two children.

JOSEPH SPIEGEL, two children of Warren, Pa., visitors to Tittusville.

Mrs. FRED REID.

AMELIA REID, aged 12.

FRANK COFFY.

THE DISASTER'S ORIGIN.

George Stephens, a merchant here, says the fire was caused by a spark from a passing train on the Western New York & Pittsburgh Railroad, which ignited the oil in a tank alongside the track. The oil tank was a resident at the Crescent Oil Refinery and was simply shut out of existence.

Not a vestige of a structure remained, the main standing. This is where the greatest loss of life occurred. The fire and water combined were so swift in their progress that whole families were swept away before they realized that there was the remotest danger.

Mr. H. C. Greuner, President of the International Oil Co., residing at the City Hall, (Pa.) horror, said his telegrams went to show that the loss of life and property was enormous.

"While our refining works were badly damaged by the fire and explosion, we will not suffer, as we have already made arrangements to rebuild them elsewhere."

From the dispatches he has received I am satisfied that the damage in Tittusville alone will exceed \$2,000,000.

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powder mill and they fix the rates accordingly.

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oil-dam at Union City burst and a wall of

Oil Creek cut out for miles, carrying

thirty houses from their foundations, and

while many persons were badly hurt, none

lost their lives.

Hundreds of horses and cattle were

drowned. The damage to the town of

Pittsburgh, Pa., is estimated at \$100,000.

The towns of Garland, Pitts-

field, Columbus and many other places are

and water. At Union City, Pa., a

large part of the residences of the city. The

blast on the right hand bank of Oil Creek

is pierced by a tunnel.

The Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Rail-

road, which emerges into the Third Ward on

the bank of the Allegheny River, below its

junction with Oil Creek. Below the junction

of the creek with the Allegheny River, the

bottom lands spread out again and here are

several hotels, the Lake Shore Railway sta-

tion and more dwellings. Two bridges span

Oil Creek near the mouth, one an iron bridge

belonging to the city and the other a bridge

of the Western New York & Pennsylvania

Railroad, over which runs the branch from

Oil City to Meadville.

Oil City was incorporated as a city in 1870.

It has thirteen churches, three public

schools, six banks, two oil refineries, a man-

ufacturing of engines, of engine boilers, a bar-

rel factory and other industries. The city

is on Oil Creek and on the Allegheny Valley

Railroad, and the terminus of the Dunkirk &

Allegheny Valley and Union City & Tittusville

Roads. It is the most populous town of Crawford

County. It has nine churches, several

banks, an open-house, a high school, a

printing office and newspapers. Tittusville

has several oil wells, refineries, steam

saw-mills, large iron works, which produce

engines, boiler tubes, and other machinery,

tools for oil wells.

TITUSVILLE.

FIRE AND FLOOD SPREAD DEATH AND DE-

STRUCTION.

TITUSVILLE, Pa., June 7.—Over a hundred

lives lost, \$2,000,000 worth of property de-

stroyed, hundreds of houses in ruins, and

thousands of helpless and despairing men,

women and children is a brief word picture

of yesterday's awful calamity in Tittusville.

The almost constant rains of the past month

caused the earth to be so thoroughly filled

that it could hold no more. Therefore the

heavy downpour of Saturday and Sunday

caused most of the small streams to

overflow their banks. Early in the evening

Church Run, in the northern part of the city,

gave much trouble. About midnight Oil Creek

began to suddenly rise, and in a short time

it was the inundation that the flood was

on before the residents were aware of

the danger, and not more than half of

them managed to reach higher ground. The

suddenness of the rise of the water, the

giving way of the huge mill dam of Thompson

& Eldred, at Spangsbury, about seven miles

from this city. The latter dam, which is

one-half mile in length by one-quarter

mile in breadth, and is a great food this

and deny let loose made of this valley in a

few moments a roaring torrent.

Hides, Feathers, Pelts, Etc.

Capitalize \$1,000,000, full paid.

Acts as Executor, Administrator, Guardian, and every duty upon the bond of individuals acting in any every description.

Liberal interest, on account of

DIRECT

Wm. E. Hughes,	Charles S. Gravel,	Wm. T. ...
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Hugh A. Crawford,	M. M. Buck,	T. B. Graham,

A liberal time of investment made and profits on account

held a session and passed an ordinance prohibiting their use upon the sidewalks anywhere within the corporate limits. As the roads are for public use as

New Athens—A Hotel Robbed.
NEW ATHENS, Ill., June 6.—The New Athens Hotel had an unwelcome visitor, who, on departure, left Mr. Peter Diechman, the proprietor, about \$130 short. The thief was a woman, who, as yet, is not named. It is thought that the thief had been hidden in the house, as he only trespassed in one room, and carried away a window which had been looked before retiring.

Greenfield—A New Creamery.
GREENFIELD, Ill., June 6.—A stock company for the erection of a creamery at this place will issue fifty shares at \$100 each, making \$5,000 capital. The stock company will meet in this city on June 15 and locate the site for the factory.

JACKSONVILLE, Ill., June 6.—The damage suit against Henry C Pratt continued to-day. The sad death of Mr. Baker was said to have been caused by a mistake in giving out a pack of drugs by Mr. H. C. Pratt.

To-Night Only.

"The Old Homestead," by special permission of Denman Thompson, will be played by St. Malachy's Dramatic Societies for the benefit of the Post-Dispatch Flood Relief Fund, at the Grand Opera-house. Admission 75, 50 and 25 cents. No reserved seats.

MISSOURI MATTERS.

Personal Notes and General News From

Interior Critics.

JOPLIN, June 6.—The Rt. Rev. J. C. Hogan of Kansas City, president of the Church of Western Diocese of Missouri), accompanied by Rev. Father J. J. Lillis, on Thursday confirmed forty-five persons as members of the church.

On Sunday morning at the Episcopalian Church gave the first concert in its series, at which were numbers of Joplin's elite to hear choice musical selections.

Among very recent arrivals here are F. M. Weston of London, Canada, en route there from Australia. He is a member of the London Mining Exchange and now a guest of his brother, Percy Weston. There are also J. West Goodwin of Sedalia, Lieut. Watkins of St. Louis, and Dr. Wm. H. H. Mackney of Hackensack of Philadelphia, President of the Empire Zinc Co. of Joplin; Rev. and Mrs. H. M. Hackney

[illegible]

George F. Cox, formerly Deputy Postmaster here, is expected to arrive in town to-day. He is the son of the late George F. Cox of St. Louis arrived last night. He is a member of the American Legion, and the American Speller Co. of Galena, was here to-day and leaves to-day for St. Louis.

O. B. Hamlin, late President of the school board, is expected to arrive to-day with many honors, to which he is entitled for his services to the city.

Mr. F. B. Claycomb and Miss Claycomb, wife and daughter of the late brother-in-law, Eliza W. Genter of Nevada, Mo., are expected to arrive to-day.

Mr. J. W. Barrett of Mexico City is the guest of friends here.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Mo., June 6.—Dr. and Mrs. John Isbell returned Saturday morning from a ten-day trip to eastern cities.

Mrs. E. C. Stewart of St. Louis will spend the summer with Mrs. Judge Gale.

Mr. J. W. Barrett will hold his closing exercises on Thursday next. There will be seven or eight hundred pupils present.

will be given at the Fair Grounds Park, at 10 o'clock, on the 15th. The guests of Miss McLean, Mr. Spencer and St. Charles, Mo. State Evangelist of the Southern Presbyterian Church, preached in the Presbyterian Church yesterday afternoon.

The Fair Grounds Park was crowded to-day by the thousands of people who gathered there to witness the being Pentecost Picnic of the Catholic Church. The Rev. Father, John J. O'Connell, gave the address and the address was given by the Rev. Father, O'Connell, on the subject of the S. B. Scholarship was conferred on her.

The Harmonia Singing Circle will give a grand musical entertainment at the Fair Grounds Park, on the 15th. Miss Annie Martin is entertaining her cousin from St. Louis.

Mr. Henry Hibbler and wife have returned from St. Louis.

Mr. August Mulgard has gone to St. Louis, where he is engaged in business.

The Board of Directors will have a regular meeting in Turner Hall Friday night.

The Board of Aldermen will meet in regular session on the 15th.

Union to-night.

At the annual anniversary school picnic of
Dulzón took place to-day at Heckroth's Grove.

Miss Elizabeth B. Lewis will give
an excursion to this city on Sunday, June 26.

Miss Elizabeth B. Lewis is visiting
her friends, Misses Linda and Johanna Scher.

Miss Anna Kuge of Lincoln, Ill., is visiting
relatives here.

Marriage licenses have been issued to the follow-
ing:

Miss Elizabeth B. Lewis and Mr. C. Schurz.
James Bingaman and Mary L. Jackson, Win-
chester, Mo.

Christine Huxel, H. Schuller and Anna Harmon,
Ed. Kulte and Anna Feitmann.

WHALEBACKS.

**They Will Be Generally Employed as
Freight Carriers.**

New York, June 6.—The flat-bottom barges
known as the whalebacks and

common sight on the great lakes, is to be made a feature of the trans-Atlantic freight trade by a company which includes some of the big men in the Northern Pacific Railway. The new building, to be erected in London, England that will compete for a substantial slice of the ocean carrying trade. Among the men already interested in the project and who are to become stockholders in the company are John D. Rockefeller, Colgate Hoyt and Joseph L. Cowan, the latter president of the company. The following, both in New York and the West. It is said that the capital already pledged is \$10,000,000, which will be enough to build a large number of ships. The company is to have its headquarters in New York in this city at 96 Wall Street, in the same building as the Northern Pacific Railway.

from the Pioneer trans-Atlantic whaleback was named, is located, Mr. Wetmore and his associates are not at all anxious to make almost any compromise, as much of that gentleman's wealth and his reputation as a business man and his enterprise has had much to do with the success of the venture of his whaleback. The interest in the new whaleback fleet was a thoroughly kind of affair, since the ships are being built and operated in England by another corporation.

Capt. McJoural of West Superior, Wis., who is in charge of the shipyard, has had good deal to do with the scheme. He and Mr. Wetmore and the company's manager in charge of the construction of the vessels are working with the English end of the syndicate. The latter is the British part of the project.

There was some talk of the Bank of England being concerned, but that institution

er, so that the mention of its name must be taken with a grain of allowance. From the yards of the American Steel Barge Co., on Lake Superior there were shipped three standard models of wheelabcks, and McCaughey and his assistants had been at work on these for a long time, and when they were at last completed they had several improvements considered valuable. Patents will be applied for these, both in this country and England. They have been placed already in the possession of a firm of leading steel lawyers in London, and the firm of shipbuilders who have heard of the

Grand Opera-house. Admission, 75, 25 cents. No reserved seats.

Musicians at the Metropolis.

Yonk, June 6.—Following were the ar-registered from Missouri: St. Louis—J. and W. Brown, T. F. Calahan, H. J. A. Genger, S. C. Hirsch, L. Miller, Edward W. M. Swift, H. M. Wilson, G. J. Ford; Kansas City—H. W. Reisinger, Kansas; M. Joseph—J. A. Gander.

